TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 18 totaled an estimated 16.7 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1987 week included the Good Friday holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 268.1 billion ton-miles, down 0.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 18 totaled 377,529, down 2.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 3.4 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.5 percent in the East but up 2.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal decreased by 9,589 cars (8.4 percent). However, grain showed an increase of 6,653 cars (37.9 percent). Sixteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 11 totaled 96,260 trailers and/or containers, 0.5 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 1,430,183 trailers and/or containers, up 3.4 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/18/87

	Loadings in Week ended April 18, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,228	I	6,653	37.9	D	2,082	7.9
Other farm products	3,659	I	797	27.8	I	280	8.3
Metallic ores	18,222	I	1,524	9.1	I	791	4.5
Coal	105,075	D	9,589	8.4	D	2,583	2.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,244	I	11	0.1	I	36	0.2
Nonmetallic minerals	8,665	D	1,808	17.3	D	528	5.7
Grain mill products	10,377	I	299	3.0	D	313	2.9
Food and kindred products	10,221	D	943	8.4	D	329	3.1
Primary forest products	10,070	D	157	1.5	D	512	4.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,139	D	299	3.5	D	74	0.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,355	D	292	2.3	I	225	1.9
Chemicals and allied products	25,661	D	1,004	3.8	D	532	2.0
Petroleum products	4,298	D	536	11.1	D	421	8.9
Stone, clay and glass products	10,145	D	548	5.1	D	525	4.9
Coke	4,765	D	142	2.9	D	8	0.2
Metals and products	8,540	I	421	5.2	I	570	7.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,419	D	5,262	23.2	D	3,295	15.9
Waste and scrap materials	7,670	D	1,139	12.9	D	941	10.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,542	D	2,945	53.7	D	284	10.0
All other carloads	71,151	I	3,735	5.5	D	2,921	3.9
LCL traffic	83	D	151	64.5	D	12	12.6
Total Cars Loaded	377,529	D	11,375	2.9	D	13,458	3.4
Corresponding week of 1986	388,904						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	5,987,196	5,999,415	D 0.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
15 Weeks ended April 11	251.3	251.9	D 0.2
Week ended April 18	16.7	16.6	I 0.5
16 Weeks cumulative	268.1	268.5	D 0.2

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